

Appl No. 10/666,490
Amdt. Dated January 27, 2006
Reply to Office Communication of December 29, 2005

Docket NO CEN0312NP

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action, mailed April 05, 2006), where the Examiner has issued an Office Action, as presented on pages 2-5 of the Action. Applicants have amended claims 8-11, as presented above, to more clearly recite what Applicants regard to be their invention and to further prosecution and reduce issues on potential Appeal.

Applicants reserve their rights to file or add additional claims and species according to the results of the search and examination by the Examiner, as well as filing divisional or continuation applications directed the subject matter of the cancelled claims.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the disclosure is objected to due to informalities.

Applicants have amended the specification:

- (e) to remove blank lines on page 5, lines 14-16;
- (f) to remove extra "()" in phrase "95%-1000%" on page 14, line 13.
- (g) to correct "TNF-_" at page 30, line 35.
- (h) to correct web based reference from "www.copewithcytokines.com" to www.copewithcytokines.de, at page 31, line 5.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is requested.

On page 2 of the Office Action, disclosure is objected to due to lack of sequence listing for amino acid sequences listing on page 45. Applicants have deleted these sequences rendering this rejection moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is requested.

On page 45 of the Office Action, claim 9 is rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph for being indefinite for the use of the term "further." Applicants have amended the claim as suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

On page 4 of the office action the Examiner rejects claims 8-11 under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by Lardon et al, for the reasons presented on pages 4-5 of the Office Action,

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molecule selected from GM-CSF, IL-4, TNF-alpha, IL-3, c-kit ligand and fusions of IL-3 and GM-CSF, also asserting that product by product claims are not limited by the process.

Applicants have amended claims 8-11 to method claims that require the recited process steps. The present claims are directed to inducing dendritic cell formation by contacting contacting hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with IL-18 sufficient to unduce maturation of said hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells into dendritic cells. Applicants point out that the cited reference fails to teach using IL-18 to induce production of dendritic cells as presently claimed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

On page 5 of the Office Action the Examiner rejects claims 8-11 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Zitvogel et al, for the reasons presented on page 5 of the Office Action, asserting that Zitvogel discloses dendritic cells from bone marrow progenitor cells with a molecule selected from GM-CSF, IL-4, TNF-alpha, IL-3, c-kit ligand and fusions of IL-3 and GM-CSF, also asserting that product by product claims are not limited by the process.

Applicants have amended claims 8-11 to method claims that require the recited process steps. The present claims are directed to inducing dendritic cell formation by contacting contacting hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells with IL-18 sufficient to unduce maturation of said hematopoietic stem or progenitor cells into dendritic cells. Applicants point out that the cited reference fails to teach using IL-18 to induce production of dendritic cells as presently claimed. The Examiner cites column 1, lines 61-63 for this proposition, but this patent relates to producing natural killer (NK) cells using dendritic cells and is not relavent to the present claims. Lines 60-63 recite: "Thus current methods for activating NK cells in vitro involve culturing such [NK] cells in the presence of different cytokines (such as IL18 in certain circumstances)" Thus this reference is not relevant to the present claims. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

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Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case
of the now pending and amended claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: September 5, 2006